

We claim:

1. A composition for cleaning contact lenses, said composition comprising water-containing beads having a mean particle size of less than 100 μ m, wherein at least 75 weight percent of said water-containing beads have a major diameter of less than 50 μ m.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said water-containing beads having a mean particle size of less than 50 μ m, wherein at least 75 weight percent of said water-containing beads have a major diameter of less than 30 μ m.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein said water-containing beads having a mean particle size of less than 40, wherein at least 75 weight percent of said water-containing beads have a major diameter of less than 30 μ m.
4. The composition of claim 1 further comprising
 - a) a thickening agent; and
 - b) at least one surfactant.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said water-containing beads comprise polyHEMA or HEMA copolymer.
6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said water-containing beads are present in the amount of from about 0.05 to about 1.5 weight percent of the composition.
7. The composition of claim 6 wherein said water-containing beads are present in the amount of from about 0.1 to about 1.0 weight percent of the composition.

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8. The composition of claim 7 wherein said water-containing beads are present in the amount of from about 0.25 to about 0.75 weight percent of the composition.
9. The composition of claim 8 wherein said water-containing beads are present in the amount of from about 0.4 to about 0.6 weight percent of the composition.
10. The composition of claim 1 comprising a preservative.
11. The composition of claim 3, wherein the preservative is PAPB.
12. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a thickening agent.
13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the thickening agent is a carbomer.
14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the thickening agent comprises at least one carboxy vinyl polymer.
15. The composition of claim 14 wherein said carboxy vinyl polymer further comprises a carbomer-type gelling agents.
16. The composition of claim 12 wherein said thickening agent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene glycol) with a molecular weight distribution of from about 400 to about 4000, poly(ethylene oxide), hydroxyethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, polyHEMA, poly(vinyl alcohol), and PVP.
17. A method of cleaning a contact lens in the eye of a wearer comprising applying to said contact lens an ophthalmically compatible contact lens cleaning solution comprising water-containing beads having a mean particle size of less than 30,

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wherein at least 90 weight percent of said water-containing beads have a major diameter of less than 50 μm .

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said ophthalmic solution further comprises at least one surfactant.

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19. The method of claim 18 wherein said ophthalmic solution further comprising the sequential steps of blinking and then rinsing the eye and the contact lens to with an ophthalmic rinsing solution to dilute or substantially remove the contact lens cleaning solution from the eye.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said method is carried out in the absence of a rinsing step.

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